

Part I – General Information

In accordance with Section 56-5-1350 of the South Carolina Code of Laws, a tabulation and analysis of collision reports has been completed for the year 1999 as disclosed in this publication. The cost of printing this publication is on the last page.

The number of traffic fatalities increased from 1,001 in 1998 to a total of 1,064 in 1999, a 6.3% increase. This is the second year in a row fatalities topped 1,000 and marks the third highest total in state history (1,099 in 1972; 1,087 in 1987). The mileage death rate (MDR) increased to 2.4 deaths per hundred million vehicle miles of travel, the second year-to-year increase in a row.

Traffic fatalities are the most severe consequence of motor vehicle collisions, but even in non-fatal collisions, the cost in human suffering can be severe. There were 55,322 reported traffic injuries in 1999, down 2.6% from 1998.

Traffic collisions are responsible for hundreds of millions of dollars in economic losses to South Carolina each year. Economic losses as estimated in this publication include property damage, medical costs and lost productivity, but do not include intangible costs such as grief and suffering. In 1999, \$2.176 billion dollars in estimated losses were incurred.

What is responsible for the tragedy of motor vehicle collisions and what strategies concerned individuals can employ in the reduction of collisions in the future? On the following pages, statistics are presented which describe the characteristics, causes and effects of traffic collisions in South Carolina. It is hoped that this information will be useful to all persons interested in fostering a safer operating environment for motorists in South Carolina.

All collision statistics included in this publication are based on the Uniform Traffic Collision Reports (Form TR-310) from investigating officers. By law, any collision that results in at least \$1,000 in total property damage, or results in injury or death and occurs on a public highway must be reported to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety on the appropriate form. If these collisions occur on private property or are reported on any form other than the TR-310, they are excluded.

The statistics contained in the South Carolina Traffic Collision Fact Book are based on the latest available information at the time that they were compiled. Due to the complex nature of the data, occasionally new information is received after the publication cut-off date. It is therefore possible that some discrepancies may exist between the data published here and other sources.